

[Mossie Williams]

September 18, 1939

Mossie Williams (Glove Maker)

Maiden, N.C.

Ethel Deal, Writer

Dudley W. Crawford, Revisor Original Names: Changed Names:

Mossie Williams Marie Wilkins

Newton Bakerton

Mr. Younts Mr. York

Leonard Lonnie C9- N.C. Box 2

"I was raised on a farm near here, one of a family of nine; I am the oldest. I finished high school last year at the age of nineteen. Father is a good farmer but it is hard for him to get any cash, so it was impossible for me to go to college. This was a great disappointment for me, since so many of my friends are going.

"When I learned I couldn't go to college I decided to get me a job. My parents objected at first, but finally consented for me to work in the glove factory here at Bakerton.

"I have been working here several months and like it fine. There are about two hundred and fifty girls in the mill, and they all seem to be nice girls. The owner, Mr. Younts is a fine

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man and takes a great interest in the girls. The work is so pleasant I am not so sure I want to go to college now.

"We make cloth work gloves. When they come to our machine they are out ready to sew and each girl runs a machine. We get pay by the box. There are ten dozens in a box and the pay is one dollar and twenty five cents a box.

"I've not been working long enough to make good 2 speed, but I can make two boxes a day. I pay fifty cents a week for transportation charges and board at home free.

"Father lets me keep what I make and I can use my money any way I like. Sine going to work I've dressed myself and bought mother some pretty clothes. Then there are extra things I've bought for the house. Our living room rug was a sight. I bought a new one and had the chairs recovered, and bought some pretty curtains. Its remarkable what a change you can make in a room with a little money.

"I'm saving five dollars a week, and hope to continue doing so for a couple of years. Since I didn't have the opportunity to go to college I am going to get married and raise a family. I guess I would have gotten married anyway, but not so soon.

"I've started my hope chest. I took Home Economics at school; I can sew well and mean to have my hope chest full before I am married. It will be easier to do it now than to pinch and save after I'm married.

"My first year of married life I want to be able to go places and have pretty clothes and do things. After that I will be willing to settle down to work and keep house for my husband and children. Some of my friends tell me 3 they don't want children. To me it would mean disappointment. No woman should deny herself the pleasure of motherhood.

"The man I am going to marry is poor, but he is good, and lives a good clean, honest life. He is a farmer, but works at public works when he has a chance. He is saving his money

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to build us a home. We will probably get married before he saves enough, but we'll have a start.

"Lonnie belongs to the same church I do, and we attend Sunday School regular. We see each other Saturday nights, Sunday evenings and Sunday nights. He has a car and we like to go places. Sometimes we go to a show or ball game. Usually we just visit friends and ride. I'm crazy about baseball, and played on the team four years. Swimming is another sport I enjoy, and I go in often.

"I'm not selfish and if the money I am trying to save should be needed at home for sickness or hospital bills, I'll give it to my family. Lonnie and I are young and can wait or make a new start.

"There comes my father. He has probably heard all I've told you about my hopes for the future. I don't mind though, Dad is a good sport. We are the best of pals.

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"I'm sorry my school days are over. I had such a good time in high school. I am so glad you are going to write this story, its an outlet to my feelings to tell it.

"Do you think Lonnie and I will always be in love with each other? All these divorces in court and separation frightens me. I feel sure about our love but I suppose all other couples feel sure too when they are married. Still I think when two people really love each other it lasts, and if there is a difference of opinions they can settle it outside of the divorce courts.

"Well, I am going to risk it and do all in my power to make marriage successful. I think marriage should be studied like any other subject. If I didn't try to please my boss at the glove mill, I'd be out of a job. I shall treat marriage in the same business way. I intend to make a good house keeper and stay pretty just as long as I can. I'll always be thankful that my mother taught us to look our best and keep clean on the outside as well as on the

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inside. When I look at some women, the way they let themselves go to rack, I don't wonder their men get to looking at other women. “